

VERTIGO

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YEARS

F A B L E S

WILLINGHAM • BUCKINGHAM • LEIALOHA • McMANUS



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suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.com

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ONCE UPON A TIME, THERESE, THE DAUGHTER OF SNOW WHITE AND BIGBY WOLF, RULED A MAGICAL KINGDOM OF LOST TOYS.

I'M *STILL* HUNGRY.

AND I'M BORED. BEING A QUEEN ISN'T FUN AFTER ALL.

YOU COULD ALWAYS START YOUR GREAT MISSION, YOUR MAJESTY, BLESSING THE LAND AND RESTORING IT TO BEAUTY AND POWER.

RESTORING *US* TOO. DON'T FORGET THAT.

MAY IT BE.

WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING *HUNGRY*, MA'AM? I'VE OFTEN TRIED TO IMAGINE IT, TO BETTER PLAY MY PART.

IS IT LIKE WHEN YOUR YARN GETS TANGLED, OR YOUR STUFFING GETS WET AND MOLDY?

ACTION FIGURES

Chapter 4 of CUBS in TOYLAND

In which we take the heights and save the girl.

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IT'S TRUE, MY QUEEN. IT'S TIME TO **BEGIN** THE RESTORATION. THE DISCARDIA HAVE BEEN BROKEN, TORN, AND MISSING PARTS FOR TOO LONG.

IT'S YOUR GREAT UNDERTAKING. THE **REASON** WE BROUGHT YOU ACROSS WAVES AND WORLDS BEYOND NUMBERING, TO BE OUR SOVEREIGN.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT WHAT I WANT? I'M HUNGRY.

THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO SOLVE.

HERE, MAJESTY. DRINK.

IT'S WATER.



DRINK. DRINK. YOU'LL LIKE IT.



"THE RAINY RAIN DRIPS, DRIPS, DRIPS DOWN OUR STONY WALLS."



"STONY WALLS FILTER IT SO GOOD, GOOD, GOOD."

THIS IS FIT FOR A QUEEN, OR NOTHING IS.



YOU MUST LEARN TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION, YOUNG QUEEN.

PRETEND TO EAT AND YOU'VE EATEN.

JUST AS EVERY TOY IS GIVEN LIFE BY THOSE WHO PRETEND TO HAVE IT.

THAT'S **CRAZYPANTS** TALK, MR. IVES.

THERE. NOW TASTE IT. IS IT GOOD?

B

B



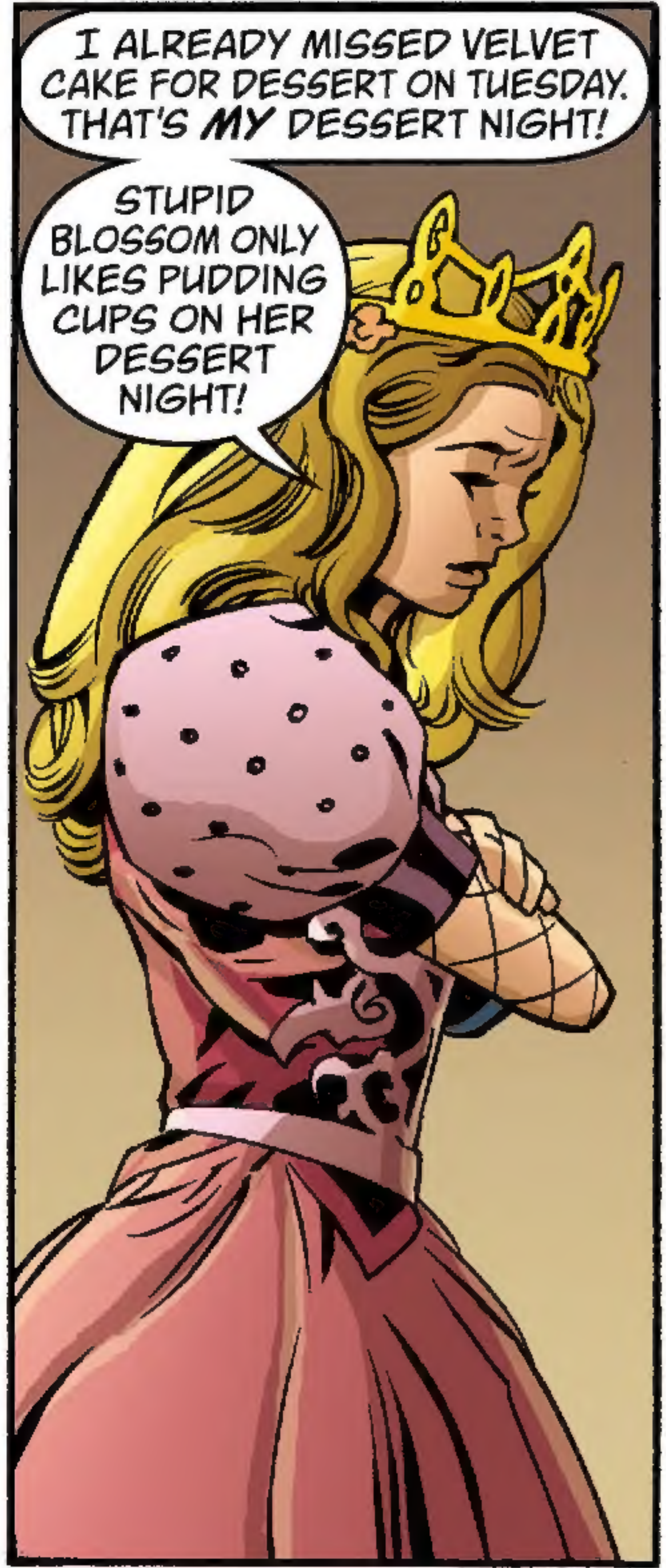
HERE.

TAKE THIS AWAY.

I DON'T WANT STUPID WATER. I NEED TO EAT.

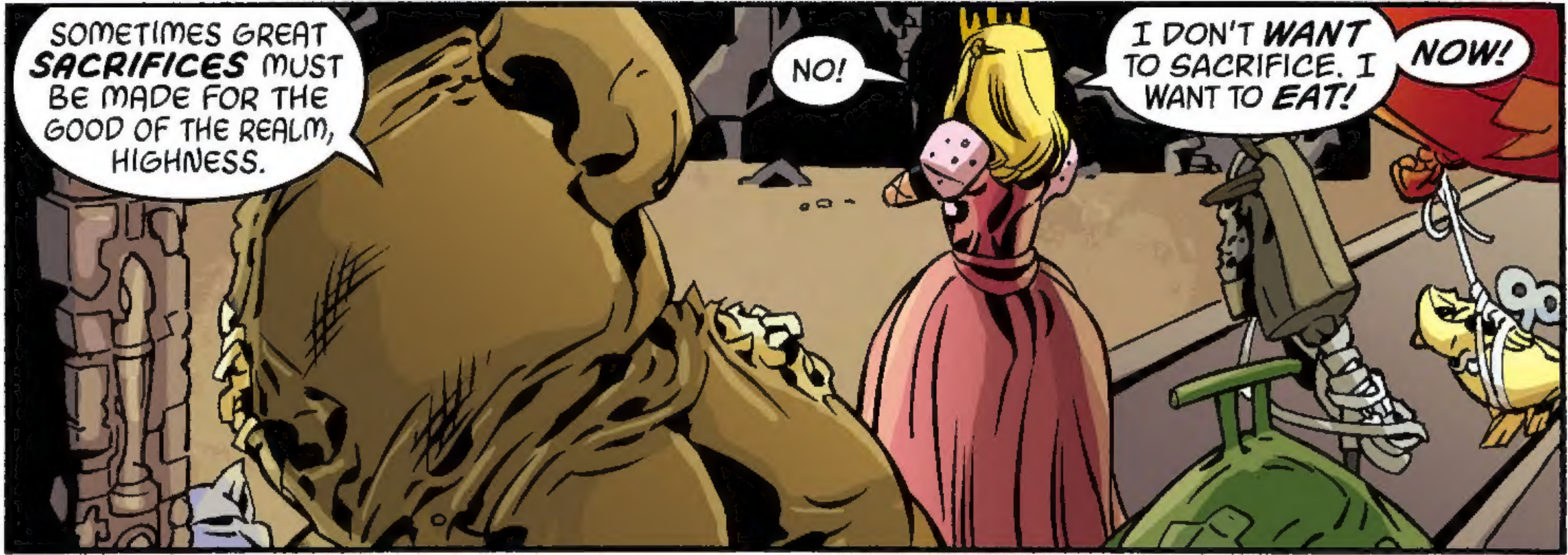
I CAN'T PRETEND TO EAT. I NEED SOMETHING FOR REAL.

I NEED REAL HAMBURGERS AND MACARONI AND CHEESES!



I ALREADY MISSED VELVET CAKE FOR DESSERT ON TUESDAY. THAT'S MY DESSERT NIGHT!

STUPID BLOSSOM ONLY LIKES PUDDING CUPS ON HER DESSERT NIGHT!



SOMETIMES GREAT SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE FOR THE GOOD OF THE REALM, HIGHNESS.

NO!

I DON'T WANT TO SACRIFICE. I WANT TO EAT!

NOW!



I'LL TRY TO FIND YOU SOMETHING.



THIS ISN'T GOING WELL. SHOULD WE TELL HER ABOUT THE OTHER THING?

NOT YET, MR. WELL-STUFFED. SHE'S NOT READY.

MEANWHILE...

LET'S GET THIS DONE WITH EXPEDITION, SHALL WE?

IT'S MOVING DAY INTO FABLETOWN: THE SEQUEL.

I WANT TO GET BACK UP TO THE FARM TO HELP LOOK FOR LITTLE THERESE. AND NOW WITH DARIEN MISSING, TOO--

I WOULDN'T WORRY. NOW THAT BIGBY'S BACK, HE'LL FIND THEM.

THIS WAY.
PLENTY OF ROOM. YOU CAN UNLOAD HERE AND THEN PARK OUTSIDE.

YOU AND MR. HOLT ARE DOING A **WONDERFUL** JOB, MRS. SPRATT.

CALL ME LEIGH.

I MUST ADMIT, I FEEL LIKE WE'RE INTRUDING INTO YOUR HOUSE, MRS...ah... LEIGH.

OH NO, YOUR HONOR. YOU **CAN'T** FEEL THAT WAY. AT LEAST YOU MUSTN'T.

CASTLE DARK WASN'T MY HOUSE. IT WAS MY **PRISON**. YOU CAN'T HELP BUT IMPROVE IT BY MOVING IN.



AND DOWN ON TOYLAND'S SALTY SHORE...

SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW, MISTER MONKBATTER?

MOUNTBATTEN. CALL ME MONTY, THOUGH.

DO WE JUST RUN UP THERE TO THE CASTLE AND TELL MY SISTER TO COME HOME WITH US?

I HOPE IT CAN BE DONE THAT EASILY.

AND WE CAN RIDE ALL THE WAY BACK WITH YOU, JUST LIKE HOW WE GOT HERE?

YES-- IF THE CHILD IS FREE TO GO.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE AT PLAY HERE, ALMOST LIKE I CAN SMELL A PROMISE OF BLOOD AND BATTLE ON THE MORNING MIST.

WELL, WHO HAVE WE HERE? A YOUNG LORD OF ADVENTURE, ASTRIDE A FIERCE TIGER, NO LESS.

HUH?

WAIT! I KNOW YOU!

I SHOULD THINK SO, DARIEN.

WE'VE ALREADY HAD SO *MANY* ADVENTURES TOGETHER, I'D BE **DEVASTATED** IF YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOUR OLD COMRADE IN ARMS.

RANGER **MIKE DANGER** REPORTING FOR *DUTY*, COMMANDER!

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS MAY BE OUR TOUGHEST MISSION YET, DON'T YOU THINK SO, SIR?

NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH. I BROUGHT OUR TRUSTED **COMPANION** ALONG.



THAT'S ME!

NO WAY! HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME!

BUT--

--YOU'RE SO BIG!



IF I'VE INCREASED IN **STATURE** OVER THE YEARS, IT'S BECAUSE OF THE TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY YOU'VE **PLACED** IN ME, SIR!

WOW!
YOU'RE LIKE THE **COOLEST** TOY EVER!

AND WHO ARE THESE TWO?



AS I SAID: MY FAITHFUL COMPANION AND MAN FRIDAY, **KARATE NINJA NOBU**.

BOTH VERSIONS.



I'M THE REAL NOBU! ORIGINAL SERIES!



NO!
I'M THE REAL ONE!



THE NEWER VERSION WITH **KUNG FU ACTION FIST!**



UHM... **SPRING'S** A BIT WORN.

CAN SOMEONE HELP ME PUSH THIS BACK IN?



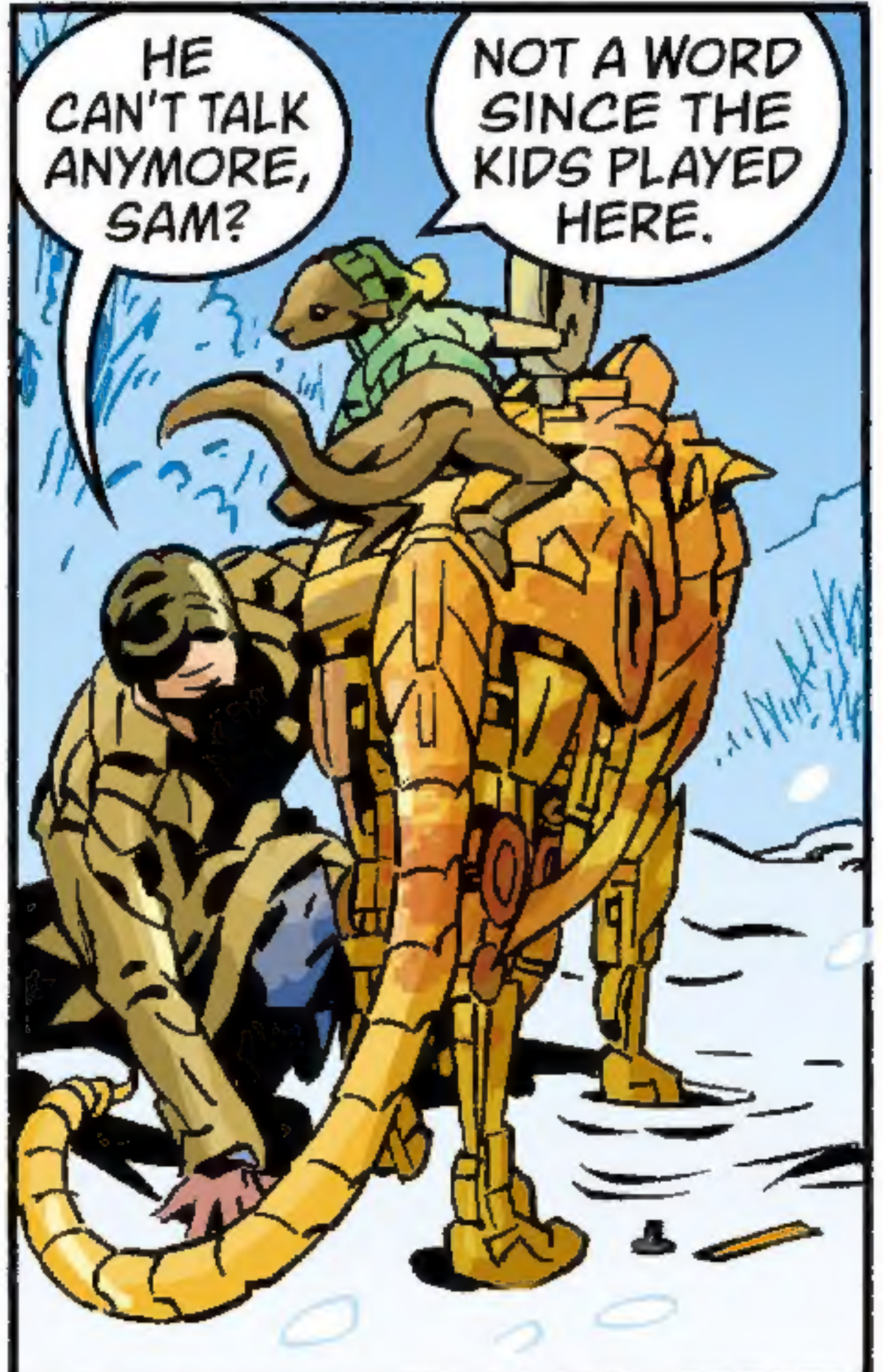


AT ABOUT THAT SAME TIME...

WHAT'S BIGBY DOING NOW?

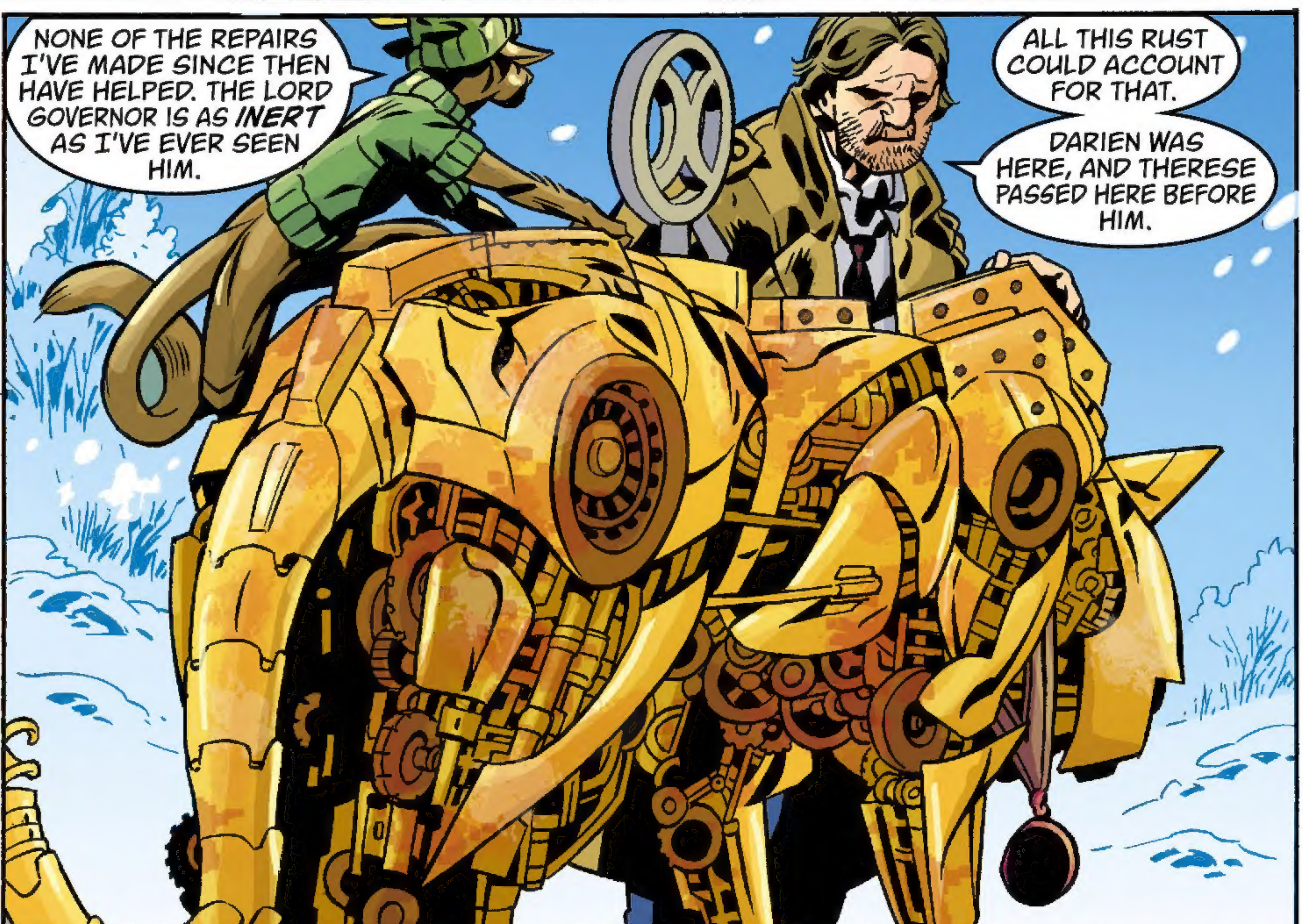
WHAT HE DOES *BEST*. SNIFFING OUT THE TRUTH.

HELLO?



HE CAN'T TALK ANYMORE, SAM?

NOT A WORD SINCE THE KIDS PLAYED HERE.



NONE OF THE REPAIRS I'VE MADE SINCE THEN HAVE HELPED. THE LORD GOVERNOR IS AS *INERT* AS I'VE EVER SEEN HIM.

ALL THIS RUST COULD ACCOUNT FOR THAT.

DARIEN WAS HERE, AND THERESE PASSED HERE BEFORE HIM.



BUT MY SON'S TRAIL STOPS *COLD*. CUT OFF LIKE A KNIFE.

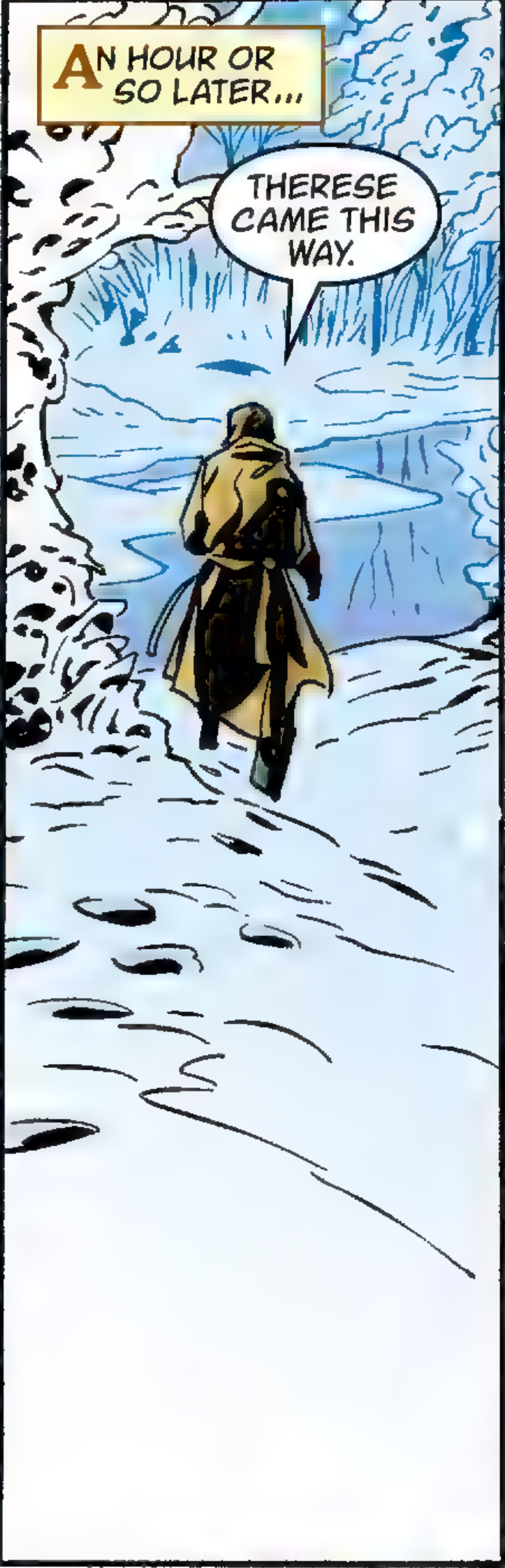
DEAD IN WAYS BEYOND WHAT ANY CREATURE COULD DO TO HIDE FROM ME.



DARE'S NO LONGER ON THIS WORLD.

AN HOUR OR SO LATER...

THERESE CAME THIS WAY.

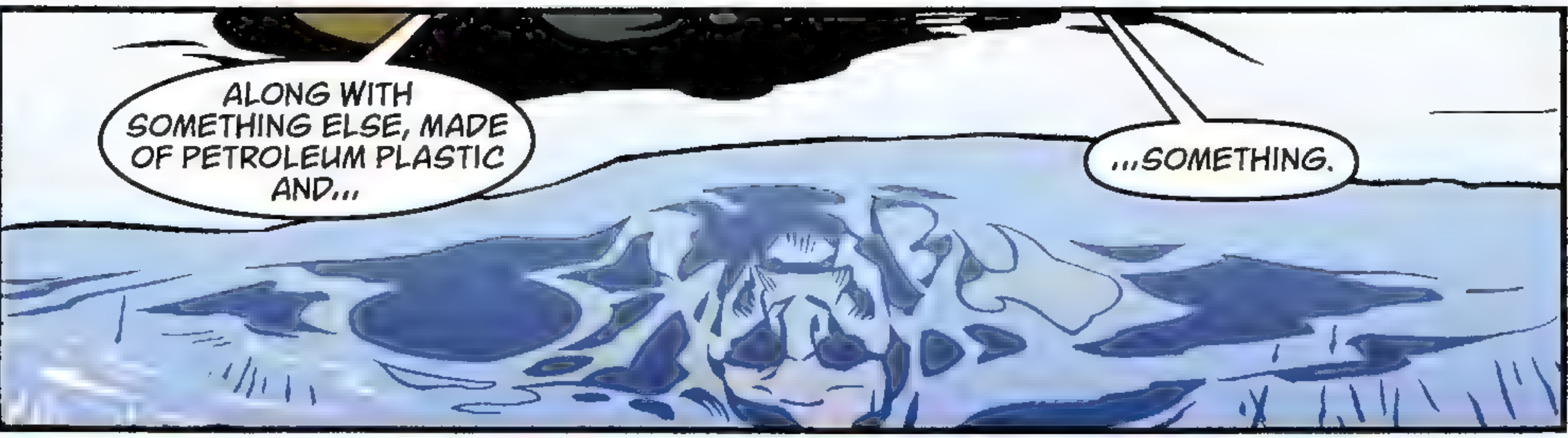


STOPPED HERE.



ALONG WITH SOMETHING ELSE, MADE OF PETROLEUM PLASTIC AND...

...SOMETHING.



ANOTHER DAMNABLE THING THAT I CAN'T IDENTIFY.



AND ANOTHER CHILD LIFTED ENTIRELY OUT OF THE MUNDY WORLD.



IN TOYLAND...

YOU HAVE TO BE MORE REASONABLE, QUEEN THERESE.

NO I DON'T!

THE QUEEN IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYONE! ISN'T THAT SO?

AM I THE QUEEN OR NOT?

OF COURSE YOU ARE, YOUR GRACE.

OUR DUTY IS TO SERVE YOUR EVERY WHIM.

THEN, WHEN I ORDERED YOU TO GET ME FOOD, AND YOU SAID YOU WOULD, AND THEN YOU DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING AT ALL, YOU DISOBEYED ME.

THAT'S WHAT YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU, MR. IVES?

GIVEN A CERTAIN INTERPRETATION, YES, BUT--

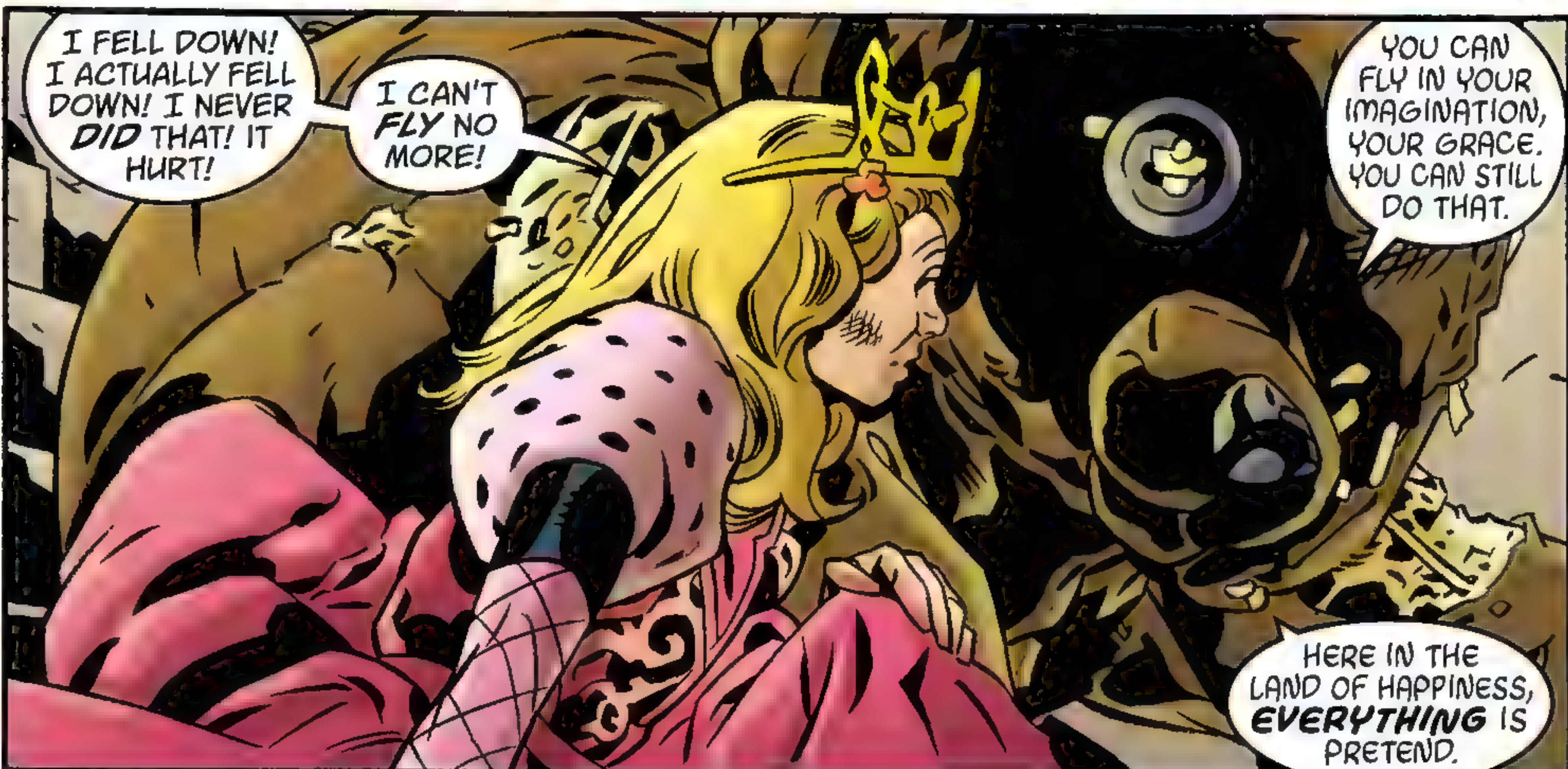
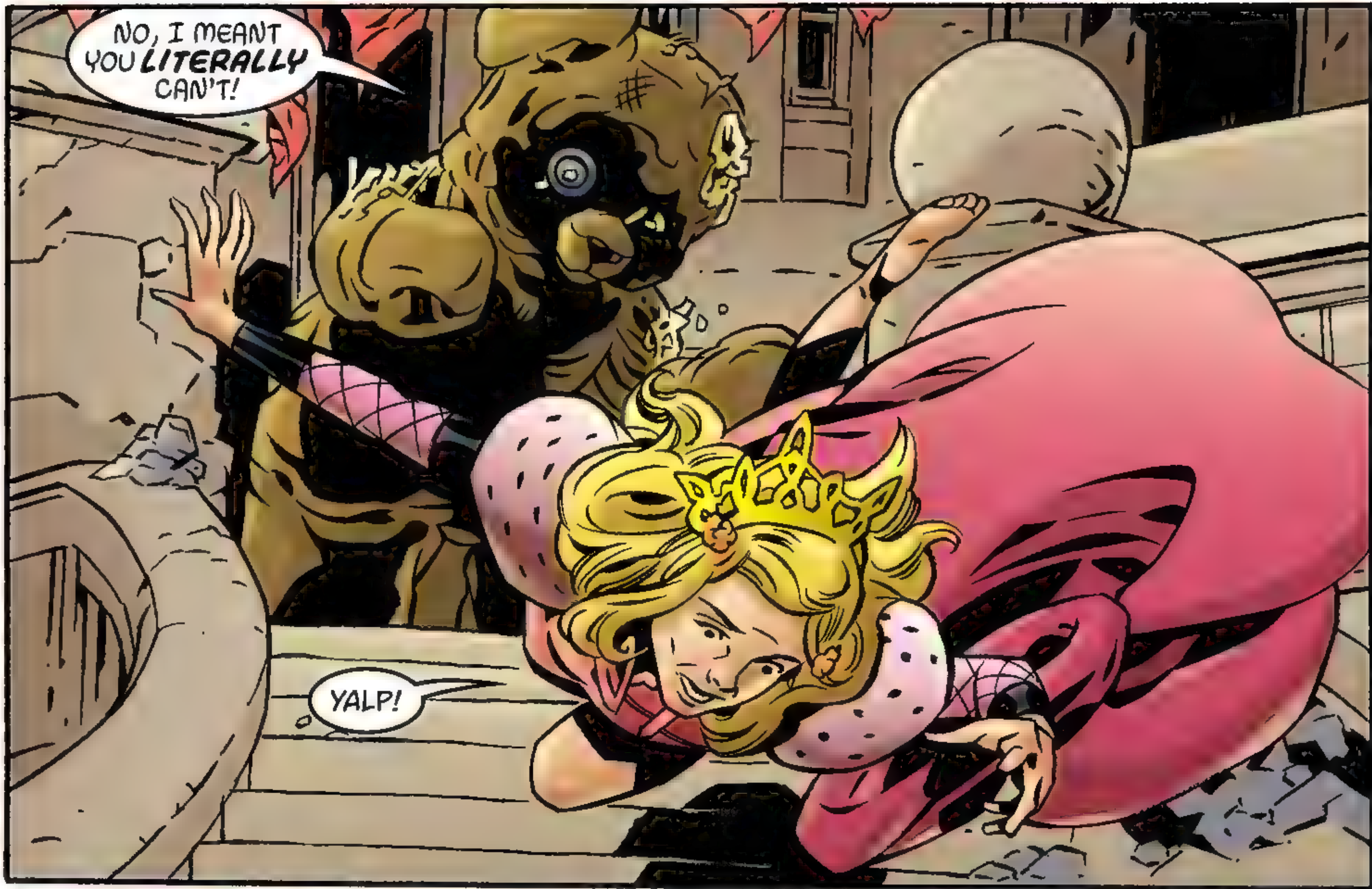
NO BUTS!

MOMMY SAYS THE ONLY BUTS THAT MATTER ARE THE ONES THAT WILL GET PADDLED IF YOU DON'T DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

SO I GAVE YOU A THOUSAND HUNDRED CHANCES AND YOU BETRAYED ME EVERY TIME. NO MORE CHANCES, EVER! I'M FLYING HOME RIGHT NOW!

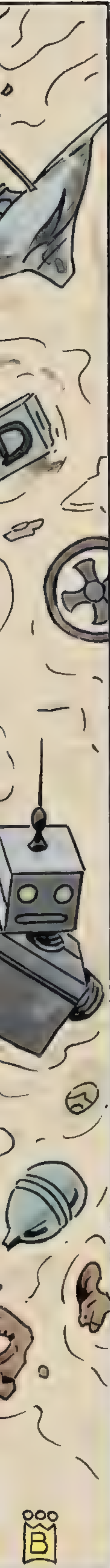
YOU CAN'T!

YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS OF ME!

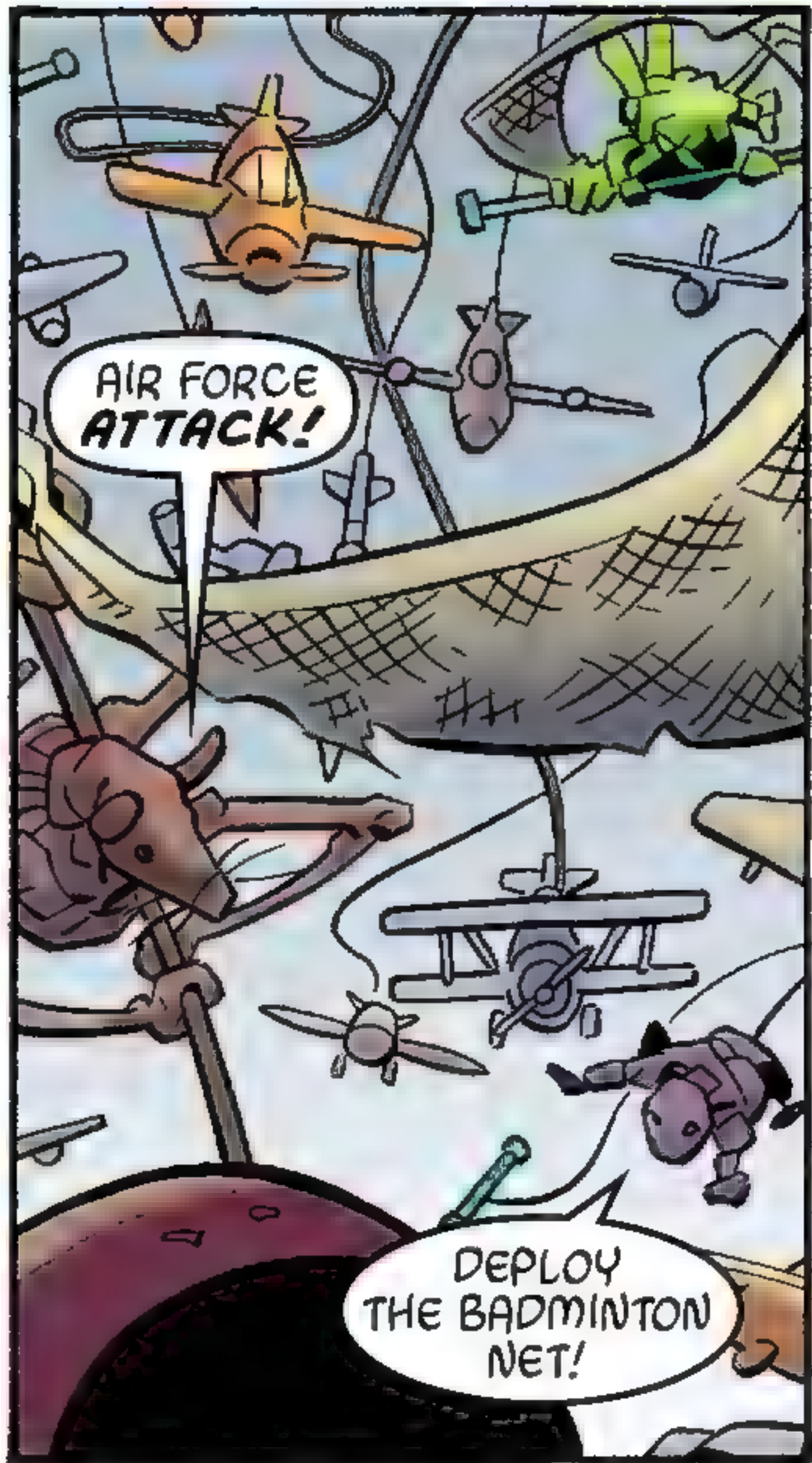


YOU CAN FLY IN YOUR IMAGINATION, YOUR GRACE. YOU CAN STILL DO THAT.

HERE IN THE LAND OF HAPPINESS, EVERYTHING IS PRETEND.











WE GOT HIM!

HE'S TOAST!

GODS OF COG AND GEAR!

NO!

NOT A PROBLEM!

DON'T WORRY!

I CAN FLY!

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NEXT: THE HUNGRY GAMES

A REVOLUTION in OZ

Chapter Four: GENERAL ORDERS

Bill Willingham
writer/creator

Shawn McManus
artist

Todd Klein letters

Gregory Lockard
assistant editor

Shelly Bond editor

ONCE UPON A TIME
THERE WAS A
REVOLUTION WHOSE
LEADERS WERE AT
ODDS ON HOW BEST
TO PROCEED.

SO I SAYS
TO MY WIFE WITH THE
WOODEN LEG; "PEG,"
I SAYS, "WHY DON'T
YOU GET ON THE
STICK?"

I DON'T
GET IT.

NEITHER DO
I, BUT IT *SEEMED*
REALLY FUNNY WHEN
SAWHORSE TOLD IT
TO THE OTHERS.

I'D NEVER
MARRY A WOMAN
WITHOUT TWO GOOD
STONE LEGS.

HERE'S
YOUR LUNCH,
GENERAL
BLUG.

PRIVATE
BONDLE! CORPORAL
ZAN! YOU
STINKERS!





UNTIE ME AT ONCE!

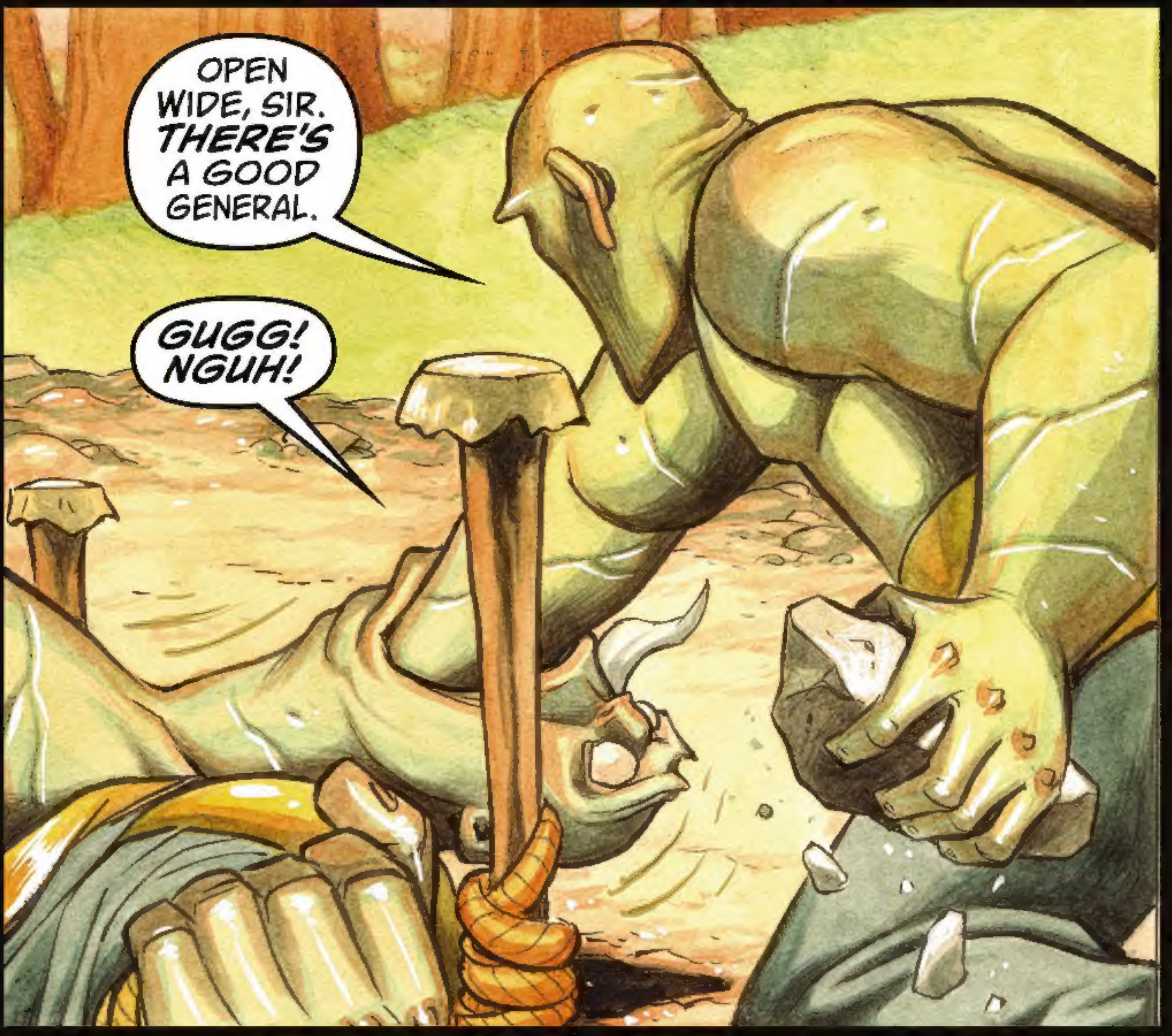
CAN'T DO THAT, SIR. YOU'LL JUST GET ALL TREASONY AGAINST THE REVOLUTION AGAIN.

AT LEAST QUIT FEEDING ME!



CAN'T DO THAT *EVER*, SIR. ORDERS ARE TO KEEP YOU BLOATED, SLEEPY AND LISTLESS.

SO YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THROUGH THE ROCK, AND SELL US OUT TO THE EMPIRE.



OPEN WIDE, SIR. *THERE'S* A GOOD GENERAL.

GUGG! NGUH!



THAT'S IT, SIR. EAT EVERY *BITE* OR NO DESSERT.



WE'LL BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES WITH *SECOND* LUNCH, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY EARLY DINNER.



WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE!

WELCOME BACK, BOSS!

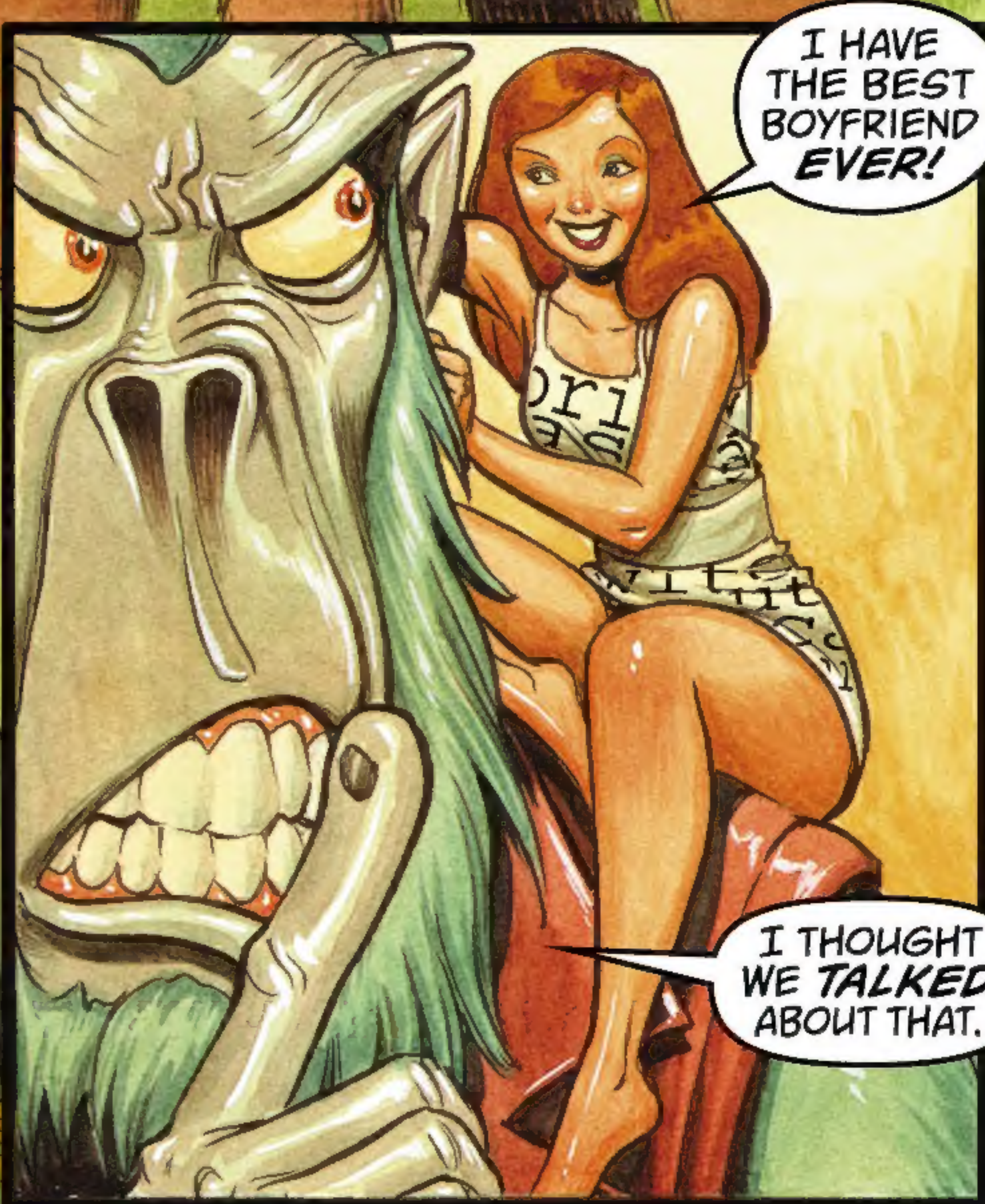
HOW WAS THE ESCAPE?

DARING.



BUFKIN WAS MARVELOUS!

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM, DODGING EMERALD CITY GUARDS, KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT FROM THE AIR PATROL!



I HAVE THE BEST BOYFRIEND EVER!

I THOUGHT WE TALKED ABOUT THAT.



NOT ENOUGH. DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WOMEN? THAT CONVERSATION ONLY ENDS WHEN YOU SAY, "YES, LILY, MY LOVE. ANYTHING YOU SAY, LILY MY SWEET."

ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPEN HERE WHILE I WAS GONE?

NOT TOO MUCH.



ALTHOUGH WE'VE MANAGED TO REACH THE STEREOTYPICAL YET INEVITABLE "FALLING OUT" STAGE OF THE REVOLUTION.

ARE SHOW TRIALS NEXT? OH, I DO HOPE SO!

Next: Battle Plans!

"WHEN YOU HAVE
a DOZEN OR MORE
FABLE WOMEN ALL
CLAIMING TO BE
THE FAIREST IN ALL
THE LAND, IT SEEMS
ONLY FAIR WE
CREATE THIS
SERIES WHERE
EACH ONE OF THEM
HAS A CHANCE TO
STRUT HER STUFF
AND MAKE HER
BEST CASE."

—BILL WILLINGHAM

"GOT KINGDOM?"

—THE SNOW QUEEN



#1 ON SALE
MARCH 7, 2012

BETTER. STRONGER. FASTER.

FAIREST

WRITTEN BY BILL WILLINGHAM ART BY PHIL JIMENEZ AND ANDY LANNING

WRAPAROUND COVER BY ADAM HUGHES

Balancing horror, humor and adventure, FAIREST is a new monthly series that explores the secret histories of Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, Snow White, Rose Red and many other characters from FABLES.

Fan-favorite artist Phil Jimenez (WONDER WOMAN, THE INVISIBLES) returns to Vertigo to pencil the opening storyline. Award-winning artist Adam Hughes (WONDER WOMAN, BATGIRL) provides covers, starting with a wraparound cover on issue #1.

Future story arcs will be written by 2011 Arthur C. Clarke Award-winner Lauren Beukes with art by Inaki Miranda, and iZOMBIE scribe Chris Roberson with art by Shawn McManus!





NATHAN